

Vita

Name: Walter Hermann Wagner

Home: 1802 Snyder St. Bethlehem, Pa. 18017,

Family Status: Married, one adult child

Citizenship: United States

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Education

M.A. 1988 Princeton Theological Seminary, Religious Education

Ph.D. 1968 Drew University, Church History

M.Div. 1960 Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

B.A. 1957 Gettysburg College, Philosophy

Doctoral Dissertation

The Paideia Motif in the Theology of Clement of Alexandria

Church Affiliation: Ordained, 1960. United Lutheran Church of America, succeeded by Lutheran Church in America, succeeded by Evangelical Lutheran Church in America;

Retired from full time parish ministry, July 31, 2001. Served as interim pastor for four congregations in pastoral transition. Continue as adjunct professor

Major Academic Positions

2015-present Faculty and Vice President, Respect Graduate School, Bethlehem, PA
1989-1993 Associate Professor, Coordinator for International Students, Coordinator of College-Church Education Programs, Muhlenberg College
1984-1989 Chaplain, Associate Professor of Religion, Muhlenberg College
1977-1984 Director of Theological Education, Lutheran Church in America
1965-1973 Lecturer to Associate Professor, Director of the Honors Program, Upsala College, East Orange, NJ. Tenured, 1970
1963-1965 Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks, CA.

Adjunct Faculty Positions

2002-03 Lafayette College, Easton, Pa
2002-03 New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ
1993-present Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, Pa
1994-95 Muhlenberg College
1989-2000 St. Francis College, Joliet, IL (extension, health arts program)
1977-78 Drew University (college)

1970 present Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

In addition: Regular Presenter for the Lay Academy of Moravian Theological Seminary, regular Instructor for the Crossroads Program for Lay Leadership at Moravian Theological Seminary. Coordinator and presenter for Christian-Muslim Dialogue series. Frequent presenter for the Institute for Learning in Retirement, Cedar Crest College, Allentown, PA.

Occasional Presenter for the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, Muhlenberg College

Publications

2013: "A Methodological Challenge: Christians Interpreting the Qur'ān," presented at an international conference on Re-Thinking the Qur'ān, Ankara, Turkey.

2013 Beginnings And Endings: Fethullah Gülen's Vision For Today's World, Blue Dome Press.

2012 "End Times For These Times" in Making Peace In And With The World. The Gülen Movement In The Task Of Eco-Justice, Cambridge Scholarly Publishing

2009 Opening The Qur'an: Introducing Islam's Holy Book, University of Notre Dame Press

2004 God Is Great: Toward Understanding Islam. Moravian Church in America, Bethlehem

- “Toward A Christian-Islamic Ecumenic Encounter,” DIALOG
- 2002** The Zinzendorf-Muhlenberg Encounter: A Controversy In Search Of Understanding, Moravian Historical Society, Nazareth, PA
- 1998** “A Key Episode in American Lutheranism: The Muhlenberg-Zinzendorf Encounter,” Concordia Historical Quarterly
- 1997** “Following Our Shepherd to Full Communion: A Report on the Lutheran-Moravian Dialogue,” Theological Moravian Dialogue Korrespondenz
- “Journeying to God: Muhammad’s Isra and Mi`raj,” Cithara
- 1996** "Clement of Alexandria's Self-Understanding," Cithara
"Interpretations of Genesis 6:1-4 in Second Century Christianity," Journal of Religious History
- 1995** "Toward Understanding Justin Martyr," Cithara
- 1994** After The Apostles: Christianity in the Second Century, Fortress Press, Minneapolis.
- 1993** "Protestant Perspectives On World Peace" in Voices From World Religions: Peace In Our Time, edited by Henry O. Thompson, Delhi: ISPCK.
- 1991** "The Femaleness of God: Two Second Century Contributions," Journal of Religious Studies
- 1990** "Clement of Alexandria," entry in Dictionary of the Early Church, edited by Everett Ferguson, New York: Garland Press (reprinted 1997)
- 1988** Theology and the Black Experience: The Lutheran Heritage Interpreted By African and African-American Theologians, Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1988. Original editor of papers given at 1986 conference at Harare, Zimbabwe
- 1985** "Lubricating the Camel: Clement of Alexandria on Wealth and the Wealthy," in Festschrift for William Hordern, edited by Walter Freitag, University of Saskatchewan
- 1984** "God's People in Ministry," theological report on the ministry of the whole people of God, presented to the 1984 convention of the Lutheran Church in America, Published in the 1984 LCA Minutes
- 1983** "Liberation Theology: Answers and Questions," LCA Partners
- 1982** "Ministry of the Whole People of God: Deacons in the Lutheran Church," Liturgy
"The Future of Lutheran Theological Education in the Northeastern United States," Published in the 1982 LCA Minutes
- 1980** "Luther and the Positive Use of the Law," Journal of Religious History
"A Study of Ministry, 1980," published in the 1980 LCA Minutes
- 1977** "The Ten Commandments," in Five Studies For Adults, Parish Life Press
- 1973** "The Demonization of Women," Religion In Life
- 1972** "An Experiment on Integrating a College Classroom and the Library," Learning Today
- 1971** "A Father's Fate: Attitudes Toward and Interpretations of Clement of Alexandria," Journal of Religious History
- 1970** "Philo and Paideia," Cithara
- 1968** "Another Look At The Literary Problem in Clement of Alexandria," Church History
- 1966** "Luther's Views of Mary," Dialog
- 1965** "Transfiguration and the Church," Lutheran Quarterly

Recognitions And Grants

- 2012** Wallenberg Award for Inter-Religious Relations, presented by the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding of Muhlenberg College
- 2011** Muslim-Christian Dialogue Award for 2011 by the Lehigh Dialogue Center, Bethlehem, PA
- 1993** Special Award by the Faculty, Staff and Students of Muhlenberg College for Distinguished Service
- 1992** Paul Empie Award for Relating Teaching, Ethics and Religious Concerns to Campus Life, Muhlenberg College
- 1990, 92, 93** Distinguished Service to Minority Students by students, Muhlenberg College
- 1991, 93** Summer Grants for Islamic Studies, Muhlenberg College
- 1972** Fellow, Post-Graduate Seminar in Judaism, Vanderbilt University
- 1970** Upsala College Faculty Fellowship
- 1969** Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching, Upsala College

1960-63 Graduate Fellowships awarded by the Lutheran Church in America
1957 Highest Honors, Philosophy; graduated cum laude, Gettysburg College

Areas of Academic Experience

Biblical: history, interpretation, intertestamental apocalyptic and wisdom literature, Hebrew Bible, New Testament, historical Jesus Studies;

History: church history generally, specific areas include patristics, medieval, continental and English Reformation, English and American Puritanism, American religious history and developments, history of Christian thought, Judaism, Holocaust, Christian heresy-orthodoxy, Islamic history; Christian and Muslim spirituality

Theology: Ethics in general, Bio-Medical Concerns, Systematic Theology;

Islamic Studies: Qur'an, history, politics, economics, relations with Judaism and Christianity;

Interfaith and Ecumenical Areas: Jewish-Christian relationships, Co-Chair national ecumenical dialogue between Lutheran and Moravian Church, active contacts with Lehigh Valley Sunni and Shi'a communities, theology and function of ordained and lay ministries. Frequent presenter on biblical topics and Islamic-Christian relations.

Community Organizations

2007-present Advisory Board, Lehigh Dialogue Center, Bethlehem, PA
2001-2004 Board of Trustees, Moravian Music Foundation, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
1999-2002 Board of Directors, The Ethics Institute, Allentown
1997-2003 Board of Directors, Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania (president)
1995-1999 Board of Directors, Lehigh County Conference of Churches
1994-1996 Board of Directors, Allentown Osteopathic Medical Center, Allentown
1988-2002 Board of Directors, Haven House Partial Psychiatric Care Facility, Allentown
1984-1988 Board of Directors, Casa Guadalupe Center, Allentown

Ministerial Positions and Service

2005-2007 Interim Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Allentown, PA
2003-2004 Interim Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, PA
2002-2003 Interim Pastor, New Life Lutheran Church, New Tripoli, PA
2001-2002 Interim Pastor, St. Joseph Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA
1993-2001 Senior Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, PA
1989-1993 Interim Pastor, Morgenland Union Church, Orefield, PA.
1981-1984 Educational Consultant, Pastoral Associate, First Korean United Methodist Church, Cherry Hill, NJ
1979-1980 Interim Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Riverside, NJ
1978-1979 Interim Pastor, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Moorestown, NJ
1975-1976 Lutheran Synod of New Jersey Bicentennial Task Force; State of New Jersey Bicentennial Committee on Religion
1973-1977 Pastor, Epiphany Lutheran Church, Warren, NJ
1970-1973 Interim Pastor, Newark Lutheran Mission, Newark, NJ
1960-1963 Co-Pastor, Calvary Lutheran Church, Cranford, NJ.

Travel

Israel
Canada
Cuba
Turkey